



2005 saw 48 notified cases of acute hepatitis A infection; 30 males and 18 females. This marks an all time low since surveillance was initiated in 1980.

Occurrence

The highest number of notified cases was observed in the Greater Copenhagen area, [Table 1](#).

Table 1. Notified hepatitis A cases by county, and incidence per 10⁵, 2005 and 2004

County	No.	Incidence	
		2005	2004
Cph. Municip.	14	2.8	18.1
Frb. Municip.	4	4.4	15.3
Copenhagen	11	1.8	7.8
Frederiksborg	6	1.6	5.1
Roskilde	1	0.4	3.4
West Zealand	1	0.3	4.6
Storstrøm	1	0.4	2.3
Bornholm	0	0.0	2.3
Funen	3	0.6	1.9
South Jutland	2	0.8	0.8
Ribe	1	0.4	1.8
Vejle	0	0.0	1.1
Ringkøbing	0	0.0	3.3
Aarhus	1	0.2	1.4
Viborg	2	0.9	0.4
North Jutland	1	0.2	0.2
Other	0	-	-
Total	48	0.9	4.5

A total of 29 (60%) of the patients were Danish-born; among whom 22 (76%) were ≥ 30 years. Among the 19 patients of foreign origin, 17 (90%) were < 30 years. Distribution by age group appears in [Table 2](#).

Table 2. Notified hepatitis A cases, by age and origin, and incidence per 10⁵, 2005

Age (yrs)	Danish-born	Immigrants	Total	Incidence
0-9	5	7	12	1.8
10-19	1	6	7	1.1
20-29	1	4	5	0.8
30-39	7	1	8	1.0
40-49	5	1	6	0.8
50-59	4	0	4	0.5
60+	6	0	6	0.5
Total	29	19	48	0.9

Mode of transmission

Among the 24 persons who were infected in Denmark, three were infected by a member of their house-

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hold, one by a family member outside the household, one by a sexual partner and finally one person was infected by a child in a day care institution. Three persons lived in the same block of houses. In fifteen cases, no presumed source of infection was found. One of these cases was a drug addict. A total of 24 persons were infected abroad, [Table 3](#).

Table 3. Notified hepatitis A cases in Denmark, by origin and place of infection, 2005

	Place of infection		
	DK	Abroad	Total
Danes	20	9	29
Immigrants	4	15	19
Total	24	24	48

Among the nine Danish-born persons, three were infected in Turkey, one in the Canary Islands, one in Bulgaria, and four on the African continent. A total of fifteen immigrants were infected in eleven countries, twelve of whom were infected during stays in their countries of origin.

Outbreaks

Three outbreaks counting more than two infected persons were registered.

Three brothers were notified with hepatitis A. The youngest brother was infected while travelling in Syria, his older brothers became ill five and six weeks after his symptom onset, respectively.

Notifications concerning two persons who had both spent a week at a luxury resort in Turkey led to further investigation which showed that another two fellow travellers had fallen ill. A cohort survey demonstrated that the source of infection could have been either ice cream served in open containers, or dried fruit. The Turkish authorities were informed and, to this date, no further cases associated with the resort in question have been observed.

The third outbreak was associated with efforts to clean up after a sewer overflow at a block of houses in Copenhagen; three were infected.

Comments

The number of hepatitis A cases has stabilised after the outbreak among MSM in 2004, EPI-NEWS 52/04. Infections among children of immigrants visiting relatives in their countries of origin, and among persons

travelling to endemic countries for other reasons, emphasises the importance of pre-travel immunoprophylaxis. Where one person is infected, immunoglobulin is indicated for members of the patient's household. It is essential to report any cases of acute hepatitis A infection by submitting form 1515 to the Medical Officer of Health and the Department of Epidemiology.

(M. Howitz, K. Mølbak, Department of Epidemiology)

BLOOD DONOR SCREENING 2005

In 2005, a total of 378,750 portions of blood were screened and 24,296 candidate donors tested. The number of positive donors is shown in [Table 4](#).

Table 4. Number of HIV, HBsAg, HCV and HTLV I/II positive donors, 2005. 1st-time donors in ()

Number of donors:	
HIV-positive	0
HBsAg-positive	15 (15)
HCV-positive	8 (5)
HTLV I/II-positive	0

No HIV-positive donors were found. In all, fifteen persons tested positive for HbsAg, thirteen females and two males. Their mean age was 25 years (range: 19-57). All fifteen persons were 1st-time donors: nine were born in hepatitis B endemic countries, two persons may have been infected by a relative and for four persons the source of infection was not known.

A total of eight donors tested positive for anti-HCV, seven females and one male. The median age was 39 years (range: 21-51). Five were 1st-time donors, two had donated blood before the introduction of HCV-screening in 1991, and one person had donated blood at several occasions, but had tested negative at the previous donation. For five donors, a possible source of infection was given: two were IV drug abusers, one had had sexual relations with an IV drug abuser and two had been pierced or tattooed.

All candidate donors who are 1st-time donors and all donors rejoining the donor corps are also screened for HTLV I/II. No HTLV I/II positives were found.

(A. H. Christiansen, S. Cowan, Department of Epidemiology)

Individually notifiable diseases

Number of notifications received in the Department of Epidemiology, SSI (2006 figures are preliminary)

Table 1	Week 37 2006	Cum. 2006 ¹⁾	Cum. 2005 ¹⁾
AIDS	0	31	46
Anthrax	0	0	0
Botulism	0	0	0
Cholera	0	0	0
Creutzfeldt-Jakob	0	17	2
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Foodborne diseases	14	384	374
of these, infected abroad	4	93	91
Gonorrhoea	5	318	374
Haemorrhagic fever	0	0	0
Hepatitis A	2	24	44
of these, infected abroad	1	11	14
Hepatitis B (acute)	0	14	29
Hepatitis B (chronic)	1	244	100
Hepatitis C (acute)	0	6	1
Hepatitis C (chronic)	3	369	235
HIV	1	162	200
Legionella pneumonia	4	87	75
of these, infected abroad	1	22	26
Leprosy	0	0	0
Leptospirosis	0	6	10
Measles	0	27	2
Meningococcal disease	0	51	76
of these, group B	0	24	37
of these, group C	0	10	19
of these, unspec. + other	0	17	19
Mumps	0	12	6
Neuroborreliosis	4	44	53
Ornithosis	1	9	15
Pertussis (children < 2 years)	0	34	120
Plague	0	0	0
Polio	0	0	0
Purulent meningitis			
Haemophilus influenzae	0	1	1
Listeria monocytogenes	0	6	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae	0	63	88
Other aethiology	0	6	13
Unknown aethiology	0	16	13
Under registration	4	20	-
Rabies	0	0	0
Rubella (congenital)	0	0	0
Rubella (during pregnancy)	0	0	0
Shigellosis	1	42	79
of these, infected abroad	1	37	63
Syphilis	2	53	94
Tetanus	0	2	2
Tuberculosis	3	284	317
Typhoid/paratyphoid fever	1	22	29
of these, infected abroad	0	20	27
Typhus exanthematicus	0	0	0
VTEC/HUS	4	100	119
of these, infected abroad	1	33	39

¹⁾ Cumulative number 2006 and in corresponding period 2005

Selected laboratory diagnosed infections

Number of specimens, isolates, and/or notifications received in SSI laboratories

Table 2	Week 37 2006	Cum. 2006 ²⁾	Cum. 2005 ²⁾
Bordetella pertussis (all ages)	2	143	383
Gonococci	2	314	325
of these, females	0	55	33
of these, males	2	259	292
Listeria monocytogenes	0	35	28
Mycoplasma pneumoniae			
Resp. specimens ³⁾	1	293	681
Serum specimens ⁴⁾	5	263	581
Streptococci ⁵⁾			
Group A streptococci	0	111	87
Group B streptococci	0	70	56
Group C streptococci	0	16	19
Group G streptococci	3	107	92
S. pneumoniae	14	719	820
Table 3	Week 35 2006	Cum. 2006 ²⁾	Cum. 2005 ²⁾
Pathogenic int. bacteria ⁶⁾			
Campylobacter	103	2050	2470
S. Enteritidis	38	409	428
S. Typhimurium	20	269	371
Other zoon. salmonella	47	450	394
Yersinia enterocolitica	2	120	158
Verocytotoxin- producing E. coli	3	99	108
Enteropathogenic E. coli	17	193	185
Enterotoxigenic E. coli	6	175	256

²⁾ Cumulative number 2006 and in corresponding period 2005

³⁾ Resp. specimens with positive PCR

⁴⁾ Serum specimens with pos. complement fixation test

⁵⁾ Isolated in blood or spinal fluid

⁶⁾ See also www.germ.dk

Commentary, Table 3: Due to delayed notifications from one of the clinical microbiological laboratories on a large number of positive campylobacter specimens, the total number has increased more than usual in the last couple of weeks. (Department of Epidemiology)

Patients with laboratory diagnosed clamidia by gender and county, 2nd quarter 2006

County	2006			2005
	M	F	Total	Total
Cph. & Frb. Municip.	407	607	1,016 *	1,068
Copenhagen	230	365	595	559
Frederiksborg	104	202	306	248
Roskilde	47	162	209	188
West Zealand	95	176	271	245
Storstrøm	74	149	223	209
Bornholm	14	22	36	31
Funen	169	300	469	493
South Jutland	72	143	216 *	266
Ribe	96	156	253 *	254
Vejle	121	235	356	354
Ringkøbing	91	174	266 *	255
Aarhus	302	497	801 *	782
Viborg	84	140	224	200
North Jutland	209	411	620	530
Whole country	2,115	3,739	5,861	5,682

^{*} Gender unknown in a few cases